

Russia's recent behaviour in regards to the recent conflict with Georgia and energy dispute with Ukraine. We also cited the need to enhance mutual trust between the transatlantic partners and Russia.

On energy and climate change, we stressed that the EU and the US should work together to address these issues at the UN negotiations in Copenhagen later this year. We discussed cap-and-trade systems and the feasibility of setting up mutually compatible systems. We noted the link between tackling climate change and addressing energy security and economic growth, recognizing that the fight against climate change could also be an opportunity to create new jobs and sustain economic growth.

We examined the consequences of the global economic and financial turmoil. We agreed that the crisis requires a strong and coordinated policy response by the US and the EU. Recovery plans currently being adopted are critical in mitigating the effects of the crisis: approaches chosen should be compatible, avoid protectionist measures, and not give rise to distortions of competition in the transatlantic market place. We considered that global financial regulation and supervision should be strengthened, including better crisis prevention and management, and that EU and US should cooperate on the reform of international financial institutions.

We stressed the importance of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), including its utility as a framework for macro-economic cooperation between both partners. We welcomed the progress made over recent months in promoting transatlantic economic integration, including investment, accounting standards, regulatory issues, the safety of imported products, and the enforcement of intellectual property rights.

We insisted that transatlantic economic cooperation must be more accountable and transparent. In particular, the schedules of TEC meetings, agendas, roadmaps and progress reports should be agreed upon between the core stakeholders as early as possible and then made public. Such measures are crucial to developing a clear and transparent process for setting the agenda of the TEC, extending the TEC to new sectors, and establishing a long-term roadmap of activities. We called on the EU and US executive branches to facilitate more active participation by members of the US Congress and the European Parliament in the TEC process, in particular via the TLD.

We considered that both partners should use the full potential of the TEC in order to overcome the existing obstacles to economic integration. To this effect, legislators on both sides of the Atlantic should convey their views on legislative and bureaucratic obstacles to the TEC leadership and conduct a regular review of the situation. We emphasized once more the concerns raised by the 100 percent cargo scan requirement, as well as the need to resolve remaining disputes with regard to the REACH regulation and access to the EU market for American poultry.

We discussed President Obama's signing of an executive order leading to the closure of the Guantanamo detention facility within a year. We also considered that the US and the EU Member States should cooperate in finding solutions wherever necessary, including accepting Guantanamo inmates in the European Union.

The dialogue also focused on the negotiations between the US and the EU Member States to extend access to the US visa waiver programme. We welcomed the extension of the programme to seven EU Member States, and encouraged the EU and US executive bodies to continue activities with regard to the Member States not yet included.

Finally, the dialogue took note of a 2008 European Commission report on legislation passed by the US Congress in 2006. The report found that the legislation was not in compliance with World Trade Organization policies as they apply to internet gambling. The TLD expressed strong support for ongoing discussions between the US and EU to resolve the situation in an effort to avoid potential sanctions against the US and the loss of export markets for US business sectors.

In conclusion, both sides renewed their commitment to make the TLD's work more relevant to the European Parliament and to the U.S. House of Representatives. We also agreed to further improve the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship.

MATT MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Matt Miller who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Matt Miller is a junior at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Matt Miller is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Matt Miller for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN RECOGNITION OF DRs. CATHIE SCHUMACHER AND K.C. KALTENBORN

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, the Shining Lights Award is presented to individuals who demonstrate dedication to public service and the highest level of character, integrity and ethics. Anchorage Project Access, Drs. Kaltenborn and Schumacher have themselves by embodying the Jewish value of Tikkun Olam for their selfless work in bringing medical care to Anchorage's most impoverished residents and have been selected as the 2009 recipients of the Shining Lights Award.

In today's economic climate, many people are forced to choose between food, rent, and their health. Anchorage Project Access (APA) is a volunteer network of 405 medical professionals designed to address the needs of over 15,000 people in our community who are uninsured and fall 200% below the poverty line. Since 2005, APA has united health care providers, hospitals and ancillary organizations in

an effort to provide basic medical care to those on a limited income. APA strives to reduce health care costs for all of us by promoting a model of health through ongoing care, reducing the unnecessary use of local emergency rooms.

Husband and wife team Drs. Cathie Schumacher and K.C. Kaltenborn were deeply involved in founding APA and continue to dedicate their time and energy to making this worthwhile project successful. Their tireless efforts to establish and nurture APA have benefited the entire Anchorage community and the State of Alaska.

I encourage everyone to reflect on their exemplary devotion to public service as an inspiration to use their own talents for the good of our community. Congratulations to Drs. Schumacher and Kaltenborn and thank you for all that you do!

HONORING THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF KARISSA TATOM

HON. WALT MINNICK

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 4, 2009*

Mr. MINNICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Karissa Tatom, 17, of Meridian, a senior at Cole Valley Christian Schools, has been named one of the top honorees in Idaho by the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Karissa Tatom is being recognized as a Distinguished Finalist by the program's judges, and will receive a bronze medal. Ms. Tatom learned how to knit so she could make hats and scarves for the "Mad Hatter" organization, which provides hats to women and children who have suffered hair loss due to chemotherapy.

In light of numerous statistics indicating that Americans today are less involved in their communities, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions this young citizen has made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like Ms. Karissa Tatom are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for tomorrow.

Ms. Tatom should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud her for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.